for each specific project rather than in a generalised way.

Visit of Minister of Steel and Mines to Australia

644. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Australia in the first week of July, 1986 to explore trade prospects with that country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreements arrived at with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The Minister of Steel and Mines visited Australia from 3rd to 11th July, 1986, in response to an invitation from the Australian Minister of Trade to study various aspects of mining and steel industries in Australia. Apart from the discussions with the Australian Minister of Trade, Minister of Steel and Mines had discussions with the Australian Minister for Resources and Energy, and Ministers incharge of Mines and Energy in New South Wales and Queensland and officials of the federal and the state governments. The Minister also visited some mines, research centres, aluminium smelter and coal and steel industry installations in Australia. During the visit possibilities of promotion of economic relations between India and Australia on an enduring basis were explored. No specific agreement was arrived at.

Development of towns under NCR Plan

645. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12 satellite towns in the National Capital Region are to be developed to lessen the pressure on the Capital; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The NCR Planning Board is yet to finalise the plan. The draft interim plan has among other things, proposed the development of some priority towns to lessen the pressure on the capital.

Prices of agricultural inputs and products

646. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage rise in the prices of each agricultural input during the period 1983-84 to 1985-86; and

(b) what is the rise in the prices of agricultural products during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) According to Wholesale Price Index for 1985-86 (Provisional) the prices of fertiliser declined by 0.22 per cent and pesticides rose by 3.73 per cent over their 1983-84 price level.

(b) According to Wholesale Price Index for 1985-86 (Provisional), the prices of food articles rose by 12.22

per cent and non-food articles increased by 1.85 per cent over their 1983-84 price level.

Underground water resources

647. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground water resources are depleting fast;

(b) if so, the names of States in which the problem has become acute and is affecting agriculture adversely; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The present utilisation of ground water is estimated at about 24 per cent of total resource potential in the country. Intensive exploitation of ground water resources has led to decline in ground water levels in some areas of the country. Such pockets are located in different parts of the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

(c) Measures like artificial recharge of groundwater and imposition of restrictions on flow of financial assistance from institutional sources for further groundwater development in such areas have been taken.

RE. PRODUCTION OF MATERIAL OBJECT IN THE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yesterday, Mr. Chatterjee produced some material object in the House which is contrary to rules. I would like to give the floor to Mr. Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Yesterday, when you mentioned this to me, I readily agreed to apologise before the House. I thank you, Sir, but permit me to offer a point of clarification. Sir, I was accused of breaking a promise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You need not go into it. I may tell you it is against all rules and all kinds of conventions to produce a material object in the House. It was produced. You have expressed regret. The House is happy. All of us are happy. I thank you and please sit down. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, kindly allow me to explain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No explanation. You can meet me in my Chamber, if you like.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Accounts and Audited Accounts (1984-85) of the Delhi Development Authority and related papers

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Accounts of the Delhi Development Authority for the year 1984-85, and the Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 25 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

(ii) Review by Government on the Audited Accounts of the Delhi Development Authority, for the year 1984-85.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-2827|86 for (i) to (iii)].